(ii) Construction of retirement from 61st Km. of Brahamaputra Dyke from Silghat in Dhing to Hiloikonda—Cost Rs. 197 lakhs.

Non-acceptance of Kuwaiti Deenar in Indian Banks

1829. SHRI THOMAS KUTHIRA VATTOM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Kuwaiti Deenar is not being accepted/exchanged in Indian banks due to the invasion of Iraq in that country; and

(b) what are the financial restrictions thrust upon Indian citizens working in Kuwait regarding exchange of currency and the operation of bank accounts?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) and (b) The Reserve Bank of India/Government of India have not issued any directive to Authorised Dealers to stop dealing in Kuwaiti Deenar or any of the Gulf currencies. In view of the political uncertainty in the Middle East, it has been reported that internationally Gulf currencies are not being accepted. However, with a view to alleviating the problems that may be encountered by non-resident Indians returning from Gulf countries in encashment of currency notes and travellers' cheques denominated in Gulf currencies viz., Kuwaiti Deenar, Bahrain Deenars, Omani Riyals, Saudi Riyals and UAE Dirhams, the exchange counters of Authorised Dealers at the international airports have been authorised by the Reserve Bank of India to permit conversion facility for these currencies equivalent upto Rs. 5,000/- per passport.

Trade with Hungry

1830. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the major items on which Indo-Hungarian bilateral trades have been established;

(b) whether Government propose to expand bilateral trade with that country; and

(c) if so, what are the new areas identified for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI ARANGIL SREEDHARAN): (a) The Indo-Hungarian trade is being conducted on the basis of payments in any freely convertible currency. The major items of Indian exports to Hungary have been iron ore pellets, leather and leather manufactures, engineering goods including consumer electronic items, textile items including readymade garments, drugs and pharmaceuticals. The main items of import from Hungary have been chemicals and plastic chemicals, pulses, iron and steel products, and machinery items like railway equipment and power equipment.

(b) and (c) Both the Governments are keen to expand and diversify the trade. New items added in the range of exports from India to Hungary include iron ore pellets, consumer electronics, Maruti Cars and Mopeds, paints, toys, drugs and pharmaceuticals. New items added in the import list include automotive components, chemicals and plastic chemical products and rolled steel products. In addition, possibilities exist in the matter of setting up of joint ventures, particularly in the hotel sector in the territory of Hungary.

Cases being contested by Punjab National Bank, Calcutta

1831. PROF. SOURENDRA BHATTACHARJEE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1683 given in the Rajya